

An Old Time Prison.

The Ludgate.

Hidden away in an East end square, the architecture of whose houses is eloquent of the domestic tastes of another and an older time, is a prison which was formerly as well known and even more dreaded by malefactors and criminals than Newgate. The exterior of this prison, which is officially known as "The Liberty of her Majesty's Tower and the Precincts thereof," looks like a sombre private dwelling house, with a heavy portico. But the ground floor windows of the building that stands in Wellclose Square, E., at the corner of Neptune street, gave light to a court house panelled with wood from floor to ceiling, its judge having the powers of life and death. At the end of the room is a raised desk, in the centre of which stood a vast and high chair, upon which the judge sat; on either side of him were the assessors; below is the seat of the clerk of the court, and on the right hand a wooden pane, where the prisoners to be tried were placed en masse. On the left hand is the jury box, and in the centre of the court, facing the judge's seat, is the witness box, a railing behind marking off the portion of the room reserved for the public, whilst on either side of the green baize covered table in the well of the court are seats that were once occupied daily by the brethren of the law. * * From a broad passage outside the court a superb staircase with a wide balustrade and carved banisters leads to a large board room, in which stands a long narrow table surrounded by slender wooden armchairs, left exactly as when last used. The five windows of this last room look upon the garden of the square, which is filled with fine trees, and must at one time have been beautiful; its centre is now occupied by a school, but sufficient open space remains to indicate its appearance when Wellclose Square was a word of horror to criminals. * *

No wonder Wellclose Square possessed an evil reputation, for its two cells, standing just as they were left by the last prisoners, are sufficient to terrify the most experienced and hardened offender. Standing side by side, the further of the two cells which was occupied solely by criminals condemned to death, can only be reached by passing through the first cell. But both, in their comfortlessness and general appearance, are similar. Each has a strongly barred window, placed so high on the wall that only a glimpse of the sky could be obtained by the prisoners within, and each has a sloping platform at the end opposite to the window, which served as a bed. In the first cell, given up to ordinary evil doers, there formerly stood some stocks, but these have disappeared. By an ingenious arrangement a shutter can be placed over these windows so as to exclude all light, and permitting of only sufficient ventilation to enable the unfortunate prisoners condemned to "solitary confinement" to breathe. In the old times a sentence of "solitary confinement" meant that the unhappy wight must expiate his wrongdoing in total darkness. Sometimes he was chained to the floor by manacles round his ankles or by the chains attached to the back of a straight-waistcoat [a photograph is given showing this], according to the seriousness of his crime; but chained or unchained he passed his days and nights in Stygian darkness, the visits of the warder with food being the sole means of marking the passage of time. As the cells are only built of wood they must have been bitterly cold in winter and hot in the summer, and the crowding of prisoners, that was one of the greatest evils of the old prison system, must have added untold horror to the miseries of the incarcerated. As many as twenty people are said to have been at one time confined in the condemned cell. Among these is the name of John Burke, the plasterer, of body-snatching celebrity, and, evidently cut by the same hand, those of Edward Stockley, Thomas Lynel, and James Parkis, who were all confined under sentence of death at the same time. * *

For centuries this prison was known as "The Sly House," and this name descended to the "King's Arms," having originally been taken from the fact that prisoners, after being condemned to death in the court house, were never seen again until they faced the gallows upon Tower Hill. A second brick-up doorway beneath the staircase leading to the cells is pointed out as the opening of an underground passage that ran to the Tower, through which the condemned were taken to execution; but as the opening is or near the ancient fortress has not yet been discovered, it is impossible to speak with any certainty as to the truth of this statement. The popular name for the prison, however, still remains, and the brick-up doorway, at any rate, affords a reasonable explanation of its bestowal.

THE "BLOOD ACCUSATION" AGAIN.—Between sixty and seventy Jewish families at Slivno, in Bulgaria, were in great danger during Passover, owing to the disappearance of a Christian child, which gave rise to the accusation that the Jews had murdered it for ritual purposes. The populace rushed about the streets in a state of excitement, crying out "Death to the Jews!" and smashing windows in shops belonging to the Jews. Some Jews were maltreated, and a pillage was commenced, but it was immediately nipped in the bud by the police. It must be admitted that the public authorities behaved admirably. In particular, credit is due to the chief of police, who calmed the people by assuring them that the accusation of ritual murder against the Jews was false, and had been declared as such by the Bulgarian Exarch some years ago. In addition the prefect promised to discover the child, living or dead, and

to show it publicly so that every one might ascertain the truth for himself. He implored the friends of Bulgaria and of its honor to remain tranquil until an investigation had been made. The Central Government in Sofia also took prompt action. Without losing a moment Dr. Stoiloff, the Prime Minister, telegraphed stringent orders to Slivno that every manifestation against the Jews must be energetically repressed by all the means at the disposal of the local authorities. It is not surprising that Dr. Stoiloff took so praiseworthy a step, for the blood accusation is not strange to him. In the present instance, happily, no serious consequences ensued, for the missing child, who had strayed away from home and did not know where it lived, was found, safe and sound, in a Christian house.—*Frisch Chronicle.*

DIVERSIONS OF ROYALTY.—Many of the crowned heads turn to game in these days for relaxation from state cares. The Emperor of Germany turns frequently to tennis for sport, and has constructed one of the best appointed tennis courts in the world at the castle of Morbijon. The Czar of Russia is a master hand at the game of ferache, or Russian whist, which is like our whist, except that there are no trumps.

The Emperor of Japan, of course, prefers the national game of "go." Schools for the study of this game are established in Japan, and several periodicals are devoted to the subject. Queen Victoria prefers brettspiel, German game resembling backgammon, which she learned from the Prince Consort. The Princess Beatrice has taken up golfing, a new kind of golf game; she is also a capital golf player, and belongs to several golf clubs, to which she presents several valuable prizes. The Princess Victoria of Wales is a skilful hockey player.

The Archduchess Elizabeth of Austria takes her athletics in the form of long walks with her mother. The King of Spain's pet pastime is kite fighting, a contest between two kite flyers to see which can capture or disable the other's kite. A game called the "Knights of Spain" is also another one of his sports. The young Queen of Holland is devoted to badminton and her bicycle. The Queen of Italy has a reputation as a pedestrian; for relaxation she turns to chess.

Queen Christina of Spain is an expert fencer and a good piquet player. Piquet, or piquet, has been known in Spain since the early ages under the name cientos. Bowling is the favorite recreation of Queen Olga of Greece. She is also quite devoted to games of solitaire, particularly the one called St. Helena, which is played with two packs of cards, and said to have been played by Napoleon in exile on the island of St. Helena.

TOTTEN'S FOREBODINGS.—Ex-Lieutenant C. L. Totten, of New Haven, Conn., whose queer views and sombre prophecies have caused a good deal of comment off and on for the last eight or ten years, has given the New York Sun some inside information on the probable outcome of the Cuban war. He thinks it is the spark that is to set the whole world aflame. Chapters 38 and 39 of the Book of Eschiel, he says, contain the whole secret. Our real foe is Russia. The great contest for the possession of the world is to come between the Prince of Rosh, or Russia, and the Sons of Israel, i. e., the Anglo-Saxons; for the Anglo-Saxons, according to Mr. Totten's theory, are the lost tribes of Israel. The final battle, which will be so terrible that it will take seven months to bury the dead, will be fought, according to the prophet, upon the mountains of Israel, or near Jerusalem. The conclusion will mean the restitution of Judah in its ancient home—a consummation toward which everything points plainly to-day.

OLDEST CHURCH IN EUROPE.—The oldest church in Europe is that of St. Pudenziana, at Rome. About the middle of the first century a certain Roman Senator had a house on this spot. He was a Christian convert, and it is said a distant relative of St. Paul, who lodged with him from A. D. 41 to 50. For the religious uses of himself and his guests, he built a small chapel in this house, and when he died in 96, and his wife a year later, his daughter added a baptistry. A church was afterwards erected on the site of the original house of Pudens, and consecrated in 108 or 145. Canon Routledge, in his history of St. Martin's church, Canterbury, claims that that venerable edifice is the oldest church in Christendom. He describes it as occupying the unique position of being the only existing church that was originally built as a church during the first four centuries, and has remained a church till the present day. Its font is the very one in which Ethelbert was baptized by St. Augustine, as mentioned by the Venerable Bede.

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease it requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials. Address, F. J. CHERRY & Co., Prop., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

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